



FuLeeca

Violetta Weger

2nd Oxford Post-Quantum Cryptography Summit 2023

September 5, 2023



The Rise and Fall of FuLecca

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Outline

FuLeeca: Hash & Sign scheme based on:

- Lee metric
- Quasi-cyclic codes
- Sign matching

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1. Basics: Lee metric, sign matching
2. FuLeeca: Scheme description
3. Rise: Performance
4. Fall: Attack, repairs?

Outline & Disclaimer

FuLeeca: Hash & Sign scheme based on:

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- Quasi-cyclic codes
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→ vulnerable to lattice-based attacks

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2. FuLeeca: Scheme description
3. Rise: Performance
4. Fall: Attack, repairs?

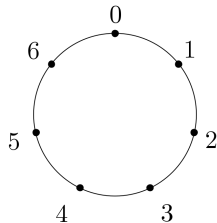


Not a lattice-based expert



Lee Metric

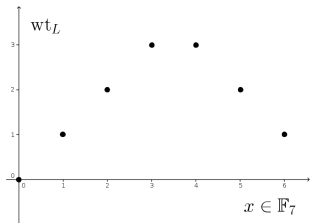
- $x \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} = \{0, \dots, m-1\}$ $\rightarrow \text{wt}_L(x) = \min\{x, |m-x|\}$



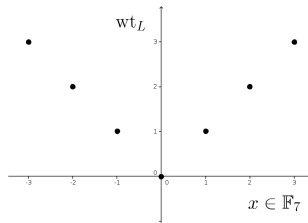
Lee Metric

- $x \in \{-\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor, \dots, \lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor\}$

$$\rightarrow \text{wt}_L(x) = |x|$$



$\rightarrow$



Ambient Space: prime field $\mathbb{F}_p$ with p odd

Lee Metric

- $x \in \{-\frac{p-1}{2}, \dots, \frac{p-1}{2}\}$ $\rightarrow \text{wt}_L(x) = |x|$
- $x \in \mathbb{F}_p^n$ $\rightarrow \text{wt}_L(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{wt}_L(x_i)$
- $x, y \in \mathbb{F}_p^n$ $\rightarrow d_L(x, y) = \text{wt}_L(x - y)$
- $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_p^n$ linear code $\rightarrow d_L(\mathcal{C}) = \min\{\text{wt}_L(x) \mid x \in \mathcal{C}, x \neq 0\}$



$\rightarrow$ Maximal Lee weight $M = \frac{p-1}{2}$

$\rightarrow d_H(\mathcal{C}) \leq d_L(\mathcal{C})$

Basics

A random code can correct more Lee-metric errors than Hamming-metric errors

→ Generic decoders have a larger cost

Hash & Sign schemes suffer from large public key sizes

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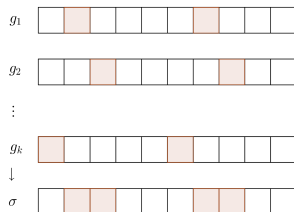
Hash & Sign schemes suffer from large public key sizes

→ reduce key sizes:

→ low density generators

→ quasi-cyclic codes

→ statistical attacks



 M. Baldi, M. Bianchi, F. Chiaraluce, J. Rosenthal, D. Schipani. “Using LDGM codes and sparse syndromes to achieve digital signatures.”, PQCrypto, 2013.

A random code can correct more Lee-metric errors than Hamming-metric errors
→ Generic decoders have a larger cost

Hash & Sign schemes suffer from large public key sizes

- reduce key sizes:
- low Lee density generators
- quasi-cyclic codes
- low Lee weight but large Hamming weight

g_1	1	1	2	1	3	0
g_2	0	1	1	2	1	3
$\vdots$						
g_k	1	2	1	3	0	1
$\downarrow$						
σ	2	4	4	6	4	4

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- Lee GV: $R \geq 1 - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log_p |\{x \mid \text{wt}_L(x) = \delta n M\}|$, rel. min. Lee distance δ

→ Random codes attain the Lee-metric GV bound w.h.p.



E. Byrne, A.-L. Horlemann, K. Khathuria, **V.W.** “Density of free modules over finite chain rings.” Linear Algebra and its Applications, 2022

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- Lee SDP: given H, s, t , is there e with $\text{wt}_L(e) \leq t$ and $eH^\top = s$?

→ Lee SDP is NP-hard



V.W., K. Khathuria, A.-L. Horlemann, M. Battaglioni, P. Santini, E. Persichetti. “On the hardness of the Lee syndrome decoding problem.” AMC, 2022

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- Typical set for vectors of fixed Lee weight w : entry $x_i = \alpha \in \mathbb{F}_p$ with prob. $p_w(\alpha)$
- $T(w, n) = \{x \mid x_i = \alpha \text{ for } p_w(\alpha)n \text{ many } i\}$



J. Bariffi, H. Bartz, G. Liva, J. Rosenthal. “On the Properties of Error Patterns in the Constant Lee Weight Channel.”IZS, 2021

Sign Matching

- $x \in \{-\frac{p-1}{2}, \dots, \frac{p-1}{2}\}$ $\rightarrow \text{sgn}(x) = -1, \text{ if } x < 0, \text{sgn}(x) = 1, \text{ if } x > 0, \text{sgn}(0) = 0$

Example: $\mathbb{F}_7 : \text{sgn}(0, 1, 5, 3) = (0, 1, -1, 1)$

- $x, y \in \mathbb{F}_p^n$ $\rightarrow \text{mt}(x, y) = |\{i \mid \text{sgn}(x_i) = \text{sgn}(y_i) \neq 0\}|$

$\rightarrow$ How likely that a random vector matches signs with fixed one?

- $x \in \mathbb{F}_p^n$ fix, $y \in \{\pm 1\}^n$ rand. $\rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\text{mt}(x, y) = \mu) = B(\mu, \text{wt}_H(x), \frac{1}{2})$ (binom. distr.)

Logarithmic Matching Probability

$$\text{LMP}(x, y) = -\log_2(B(\mu, \text{wt}_H(x), \frac{1}{2}))$$

$\rightarrow$ cost to find y with $\text{LMP} = \lambda$ is 2^λ

FuLeeca

Similarity

Hide code $\langle G \rangle$ and
publish $\tilde{G}$

Difference

Connection to message not $\text{Hash}(m) = eH^\top$
but $\text{Hash}(m) \in \{\pm 1\}^n$ is close to $\text{sgn}(xG)$

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KEY GENERATION

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KEY GENERATION

- $G = (A \mid B) = (\text{circ}(a) \mid \text{circ}(b))$ quasi-cyclic code
 - $\tilde{G} = (\text{Id}_{n/2} \mid A^{-1}B) = (\text{Id}_{n/2} \mid T) \rightarrow$ public key: T
- $\rightarrow$ How to sample secret generators a, b ?

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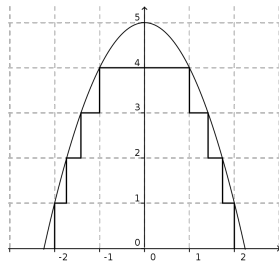
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KEY GENERATION

- How to sample secret generators a, b ?
- $d = w_{\text{key}}$: min. Lee distance from GV
→ $a, b \in T(d/2, n/2)$
- hidden detail: fancy rounding function f to get close to weight $d/2$
- hidden detail: random sign swapping of a to get invertible $\text{circ}(a)$



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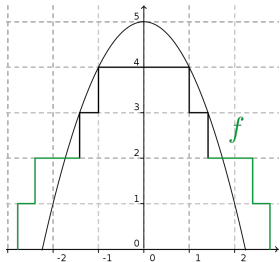
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SIGNATURE GENERATION

VERIFICATION

Similarity

Hide code $\langle G \rangle$ and
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SIGNATURE GENERATION

VERIFICATION

- **Iterative algorithm:** go through rows of G
 - add / subtract rows until $xG = v$ is s.t.
 1. $\text{wt}_L(v) \in [w_{\text{sig}} - 2w_{\text{key}}, w_{\text{sig}}]$
 2. $\text{LMP}(v, \text{Hash}(m)) \geq \lambda + 64$
 - $\tilde{G} = (\text{Id}_{n/2} \mid T) \rightarrow v = (y, yT)$
- Signature y

Similarity

Hide code $\langle G \rangle$ and
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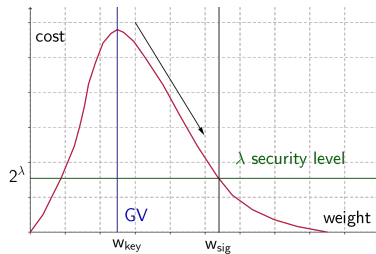
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VERIFICATION

- Given T , message m and signature y
 - recover $v = (y, yT)$ and check
 1. $\text{wt}_L(v) \in [w_{\text{sig}} - 2w_{\text{key}}, w_{\text{sig}}]$
 2. $\text{LMP}(v, \text{Hash}(m)) \geq \lambda + 64$
- **Accept** / **Reject**

Parameter Choices

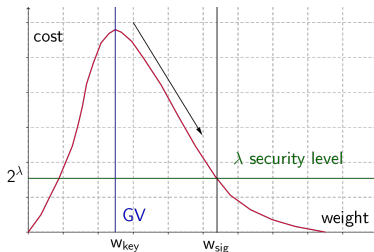
- $p = 65'521$
- $w_{\text{key}}/(nM) = 0.001437$ on GV
- $w_{\text{sig}}/(nM) = 0.03$ s.t. generic decoders cost 2^λ



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Sizes in bytes, times in MCycles



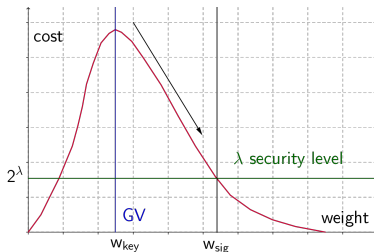
Level	pk	sign	t_{sign}	t_{verify}
I	1'318	1'100	1'803	1.4
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V	2'638	2'130	11'805	3.8

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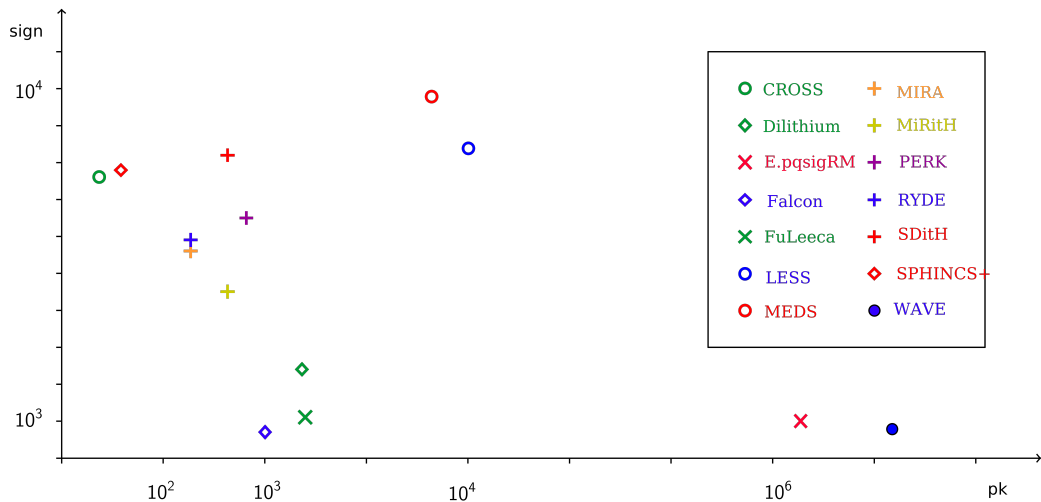
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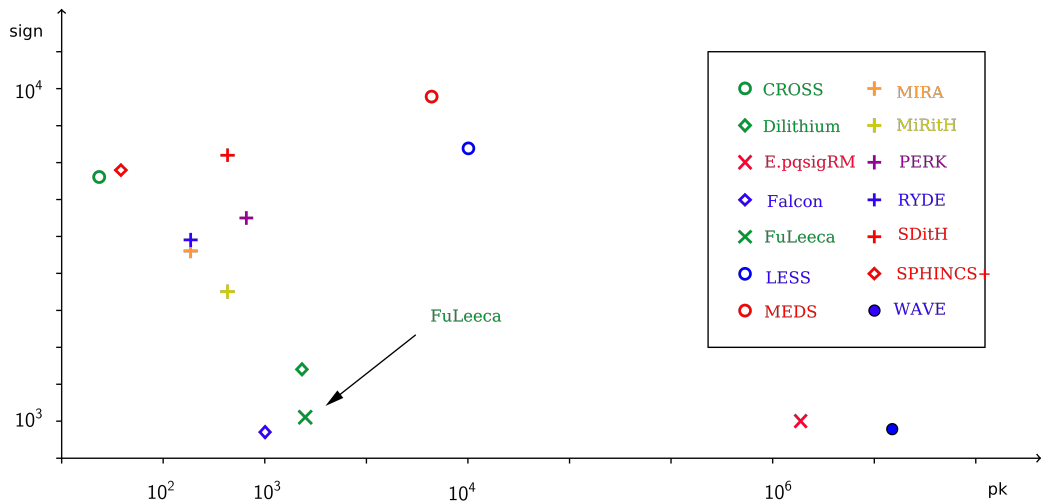


- Total size: 2.4 KB
- Falcon: 1.5 KB
- Dilithium: 3.7 KB
- SPHINCS⁺: 7.7 KB

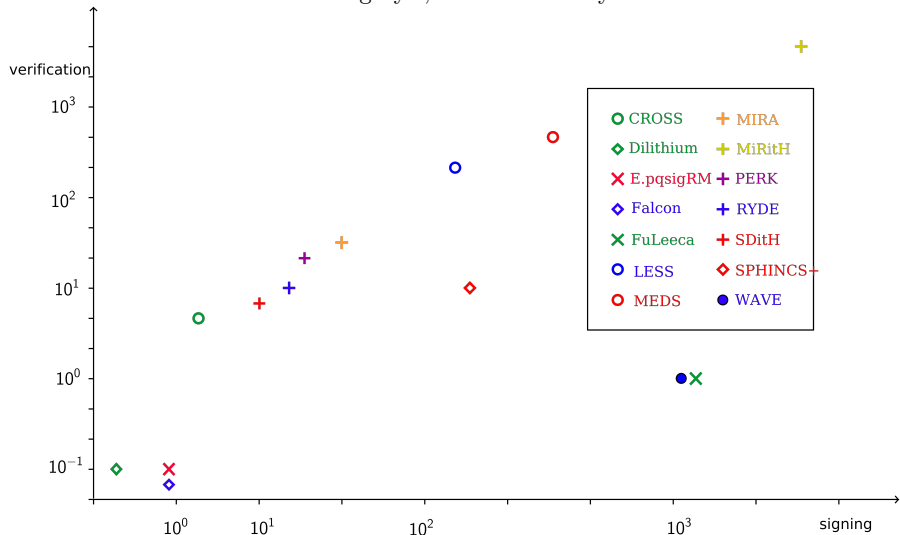
NIST Category I, all sizes in bytes



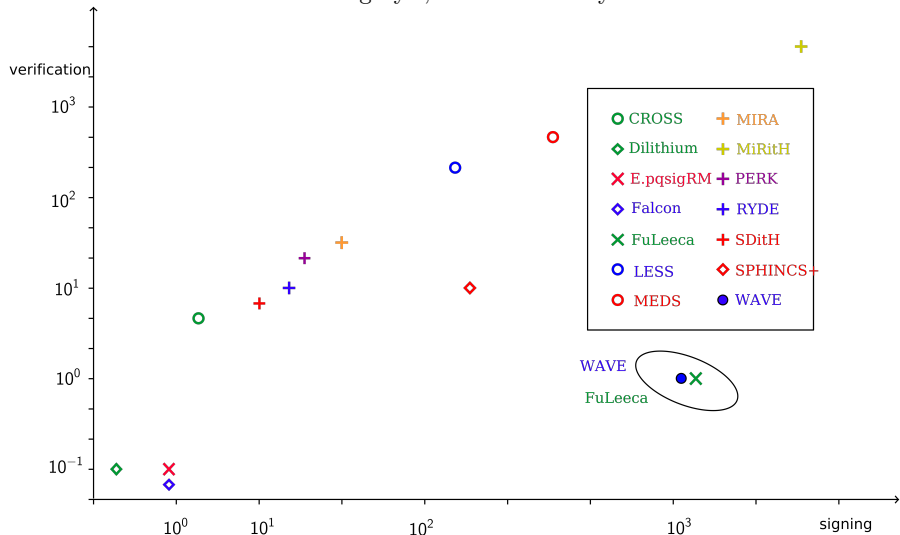
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NIST Category I, all sizes in MCycles



NIST Category I, all sizes in MCycles





Not a lattice-based expert



Euclidean Metric

$$x \in \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \text{wt}_E(x) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^2}$$

$$(\text{wt}_L(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|)$$

L_2 -Norm can be reduced to any L_p -Norm (also L_1)



O. Regev, R. Rosen. “[Lattice problems and norm embeddings.](#)”, ACM symposium on Theory of Computing, 2006.

→ can use Lee to solve Euclidean

→ use Euclidean to solve Lee: not known/hard



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Countermeasure: larger values in x

→ directly use integer lattice $L(G)$

→ large w_{sig} : forgery attacks



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2. **Quasi-cyclic:** $G = (A \mid B)$, $v = (xA, xB)$

→ enough to work with $L(A)$

→ $L(A)$ circulant lattice → subexponential



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2. **Quasi-cyclic:** $G = (A \mid B)$, $v = (xA, xB)$

Countermeasure: no quasi-cyclic code

→ enough to work with $L(A)$

→ public keys > 3.5 MB

→ $L(A)$ circulant lattice → subexponential



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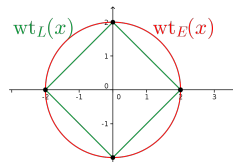


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3. Short Euclidean = Small Lee weight





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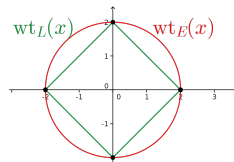
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→ can use Lee to solve Euclidean

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3. Short Euclidean = Small Lee weight

→ How to avoid this situation?



Hörmann & van Woerden: experimentally ✓

Questions?

Many thanks from the FuLeeca-Team

- Stefan Ritterhoff
- Sebastian Bitzer
- Patrick Karl
- Georg Maringer
- Thomas Schamberger
- Jonas Schupp
- Georg Sigl
- Antonia Wachter-Zeh
- Violetta Weger



Slides



Website

Code-Based Submissions

All sizes in bytes, times in MCycles.

Scheme	Based on	Technique	Pk	Sig	Sign	Verify
CROSS	Restricted SDP	ZK	32	7'625	11	7.4
Enh. pqsigRM	Reed-Muller	Hash & Sign	2'000'000	1'032	1.3	0.2
FuLeeca	Lee SDP	Hash & Sign	1'318	1'100	1'846	1.3
LESS	Code equiv.	ZK	13'700	8'400	206	213
MEDS	Matrix rank equiv.	ZK	9'923	9'896	518	515
MIRA	Matrix rank SDP	MPC	84	5'640	46'8	43'9
MiRitH	Matrix rank SDP	MPC	129	4'536	6'108	6'195
PERK	Permuted Kernel	MPC	150	6'560	39	27
RYDE	Rank SDP	MPC	86	5'956	23.4	20.1
SDitH	SDP	MPC	120	8'241	13.4	12.5
WAVE	Large wt ($U, U + V$)	Hash & Sign	3'677'390	822	1'160	1.23



Not all schemes have optimized implementations → Numbers may change